



**UNDER GOD...WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**

**STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO DOBBS DECISION**

**The Vestry of the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields supports The Episcopal Church's Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's response statement on the Supreme Court Dobbs decision, which eliminated the federal constitutional right to abortion.**

**Bishop Curry, Episcopal Church Public Affairs Office, June 24, 2022:**

"The Episcopal Church maintains that access to equitable health care, including reproductive health care and reproductive procedures, is 'an integral part of a woman's struggle to assert her dignity and worth as a human being.' (2018-D032)."

"The Episcopal Church sustains its unequivocal opposition to any legislation on the part of the national or state governments which would abridge or deny the right of individuals to reach informed decisions [about the termination of pregnancy] and to act upon them' (2018-D032)."

**As stated in our baptismal covenant, "We respect the dignity of every human being."**

We [the Vestry] believe bodily autonomy and full self-determination are consistent with the Judeo-Christian understanding of God's empowerment of each person with the freedom to make choices. We believe each person needs to assume the responsibility for those choices.

We recognize the complexity and impact of these personal and private decisions on all people, not only on women. We are concerned with the potential effects of this decision on constitutional rights to contraception, marriage equality and same sex relationships.

**With Bishop Curry we deeply grieve the negative impact the Dobbs decision will have.**

[The Supreme Court's] decision institutionalizes inequality because women with access to resources will be able to exercise their moral judgment in ways that women without the same resources will not. It will be particularly acute for those who are impoverished or lack consistent access to health care services.

As Episcopalians, we pray for those who may be harmed by this decision, especially for women and other people who need these reproductive services. We pray for the poor and vulnerable, who may not have other options for access.

**The Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields resolves to lift its voice and support all people's struggle to assert their human dignity. We urge parishioners to make their voices heard in the way they feel called, but always to do so peacefully, and with respect and love of neighbor in all our thoughts, words, and deeds.**

Find Bishop Curry's complete statement on the Episcopal Diocese website: [tinyurl.com/yvknz8nu](https://tinyurl.com/yvknz8nu)  
Approved by the Vestry of the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Philadelphia, PA, September 27, 2022